

WASHINGTON

President Reagan named former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick and former national security adviser and Interior Secretary William Clark Friday to a blue-ribbon panel to study management of America's nuclear arsenal.

Reagan also named California businessman Alan Furth as third representative on the task force created by Congress to resolve a dispute over whether the Energy Department or the Defense Department should manage nuclear weapons.

Congress has named four members -- former Defense Secretary and CIA Director James Schlesinger, retired Gen. Frederick Kroesen, and scientists Harold Agnew and William Perry.

The task force meets for the first time Monday and must report to Congress in July.

From their inception, nuclear weapons have been managed by different agencies of government, but a proposal last year by Sens. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., and John Warner, R-Va., to transfer funding authority from the Energy Department to the Pentagon while leaving management authority with Energy, was opposed by both departments.

"Joint management of the nuclear weapons program has served the nation well, and all past studies have recommended that joint management arrangements be preserved," said a White House fact sheet.

The panel will study ways to improve coordination between the two departments.

This was the first assignment for Kirkpatrick and Clark since they left the administration last month. Both were known as Reagan's toughest advisers on foreign affairs and national security.

Kirkpatrick technically remains the U.N. ambassador pending Senate confirmation of Vernon Walters, a roving ambassador and former deputy director of the CIA.